



**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Redding Field Office
355 Hemsted Dr.
Redding, CA 96002**

October 2003

**Draft Amendment to the
Redding Resource Management Plan**

**Direct Land Sale to the
Redding Gun Club
For A Regional Firing Range**



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Redding Field Office

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October 20, 2003



IN REPLY REFER TO:

1610 (P)
CACA 45567
(CA-360-22)

Dear Reader:

Since 1986 the Redding Bureau of Land Management Field Office has cooperated with local planning agencies, and groups to locate a site for a regional firing range.

Between 1932 and 1986, the Redding Gun Club (Gun Club), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, leased City of Redding (City) property for the operation of a public firing range. The range was used by members of the public, law enforcement, and was used for special meets by the Gun Club. In 1984, the City informed the Gun Club that the firing range must be relocated. Several alternative sites were examined but none were found to be adequate and the range was closed.

In 1989, an informal consortium of law enforcement agencies and city/county officials met to study the problem of finding a new site. The group examined several locations and settled on the 3,000-acre Hunt Ranch (east of Redding) as their best choice. \$300,000 had been budgeted from Pittman-Robertson¹ funds for range developments. The City subsequently submitted a grant application for the funds, and began discussions with Shasta County regarding the range and preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

In 1990, the City completed the EIR for the Hunt Ranch and it was certified as adequate. Although the owner had offered the land for sale to the City, the City failed to open escrow and the property was sold to someone else. The grant funds that had been available for construction of the range were then allocated to another project.

In 1991, the City began looking at another site off Iron Mountain Road about three miles north of the town of Keswick. A noise test, along with other environmental work, was conducted. The owner of the property wanted more money than the appraised fair market value and more money than the City was willing to pay. The site was dropped from further consideration.

In the same year, the City examined a site on public land on Walker Mine Road. The Redding Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the managing agency, was then in the middle of writing the Redding Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP was adopted in 1993. On page 46 of the RMP it states: "develop an integrated resources activity plan for the Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area which: . . . identifies potential site(s) for a regional firing range . . . "

¹ Pittman Robertson Act (1937) provides federal aid from an excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition to the states for purposes such as hunter education and firing range development. In California the funds are made available through the Department of Fish and Game.

In the years after the approval of the RMP, several meetings were held with representatives from Shasta County (County), Shasta County Sheriff's Department, City of Anderson, the City, the City of Redding Police Department, the City of Shasta Lake, the Gun Club, various other shooting organizations and the BLM. The major players were the County, the Sheriff's Department, the City, the City of Redding Police Department, the Gun Club, and the BLM. The purpose of these meetings was to identify the exact location for the proposed range and identify to whom title of the property would be transferred. In September 1996, the County, having taken the lead on the gun range issue, sent a letter requesting the BLM to pursue fee transfer of a 60-acre site to the County.

The BLM Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area (ISRMA) Plan was approved in January 1998. This RMP implementation plan identifies a site off of Walker Mine Road northeast of Keswick Dam on the Sacramento River, now known as the Walker Mine site, for disposal to Shasta County for a range. The County would then look at the development of a regional 60-acre-to-160-acre firing range. The Interlakes Plan stated that management proposals on this property would be developed and evaluated by Shasta County under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Since then, however, for various reasons, the City, the City Police Department, the County and the County Sheriff's Department have decided not to participate in this project. The main proponents remaining are the Gun Club and BLM.

This document is an RMP amendment and environmental assessment of the disposal of public land. The purpose is to provide a regional firing range to replace several former shooting spots that have been closed to protect public safety.

Interested persons may submit written comments regarding the proposed amendment for a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register, to Charles M. Schultz, Field Office Manager, Redding Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 355 Hemsted Dr., Redding, CA 96002.

At the end of the 30 day comment period, the BLM may issue a proposed decision to amend the RMP. A notice of availability of the RMP amendment decision will be published as a legal notice in the local newspaper and sent to interested parties. There will be a 30-day protest period for the RMP amendment.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

We welcome your interest and comments to this plan amendment. If you have questions, please contact Ilene Emry, Realty Specialist, at (530)224-2100, or email to: Ilene_Emry@ca.blm.gov.

Sincerely,

Chuck Schultz
Field Manager

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Chapter 1 Purpose and Need for the Amendment

A. Introduction

This document is a plan amendment and environmental assessment of the disposal of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Redding Field Office. The purpose is to provide a regional firing range in place of several former shooting areas that have been closed.

The environmental assessment is number CA-360-RE-2003-78 for this amendment. A separate environmental assessment will be prepared for the direct sale to the Redding Gun Club under CA 360-RE-2003-71.

An Environmental Assessment (EA), RE-2002-38, was previously prepared for sale of public land for the firing range. Information and comments received on that EA are incorporated into this document as well as EA-2003-71.

B. Purpose and Need to Amend the RMP

The subject public land is located within the Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area which is identified as a retention/acquisition area. The proposed amendment to the 1993 Redding Resource Management Plan reallocates the identified property from acquisition/retention to available for disposal. It identifies by map and legal description up to 260 acres of public land that would be disposed to the Redding Gun Club for development of a regional firing range. Management of the proposed sale parcel area is allocated by the RMP for “acquisition or retention” of public lands. Because of the current use of target shooting and the concern of public safety the disposal to the Redding Gun Club will allow the ability to provide shooting in a safe and controlled area.

C. Planning Area and Map

Exhibit A and Exhibit B show the property location at M.D.M., T. 33N., R. 9W., sec. 32, 33 in Shasta County, California. The map location is on the USGS Shasta Dam, 7.5 minute quadrangle, California.

Mount Diablo Meridian, T. 33 N., R. 5 W.,
Section 32: E½ of Lot 15, E½ of Lot 22,
Section 33: S½ of Lot 9, S½ of Lot 10, S½ of Lot 11, Lots 16-21;
containing approximately 260 acres.

D. Planning Process

Amendment of a land use plan and is guided by the legal authority found in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and regulations found in 43 CFR 1610 (Planning). Both NEPA and FLPMA require BLM to provide the public with information about the effects of implementing land use plans, amendments to lands use plans, and when disposing of public land.

(Insert pages Exhibit A and Exhibit B here.)

(Insert pages Exhibit A and Exhibit B here.)

E. Planning Criteria/Legislative Constraints

The planning criteria used in this amendment are:

- The land to be disposed of must be identified by map or legal description in the approved resource management plan.
- Amendment will be completed in compliance with FLPMA and NEPA.
- The BLM Land Use Planning regulations require changes in RMP land use allocations be made through a land use plan amendment.

This LUP amendment changes three allocations of the 1993 Redding RMP:

- The RMP amendment will establish a boundary of the above described area which will then allow disposal of the public land. The allocation of the above described public land is being changed from “retention/acquisition” to “available for disposal”.
- The public land identified above would be available for disposal to the Redding Gun Club for possible development of a regional firing range.
- The Redding Gun Club, a non-profit organization, is specified as the proponent in place of a “requesting agency” (not stated, but assumed to be, the County of Shasta) identified on page 46 of the RMP (and mentioned in the ISRMA Plan, page 3, item 13).

Full consideration of the land sale criteria and competitive bidding procedures of Section 203 of FLPMA have been analyzed. The Redding Gun Club is a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization. The proposed regional firing range has been a long time project with much community support as shown in the background section of this EA. It has been determined that a competitive or modified competitive sale method is not appropriate for this project and the public interest would best be served by a direct sale. According to 43CFR 2711.3-3(a) a direct sale method (without competition) may be utilized, when in the opinion of the authorized officer, a competitive sale is not appropriate and the public interest would best be served by a direct sale. Examples include, but are not limited to: (1) A tract identified for transfer to State or local government or nonprofit organization.

F. Existing Management Plan Decisions

The 1993 Redding Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the 1998 Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area Plan provide the existing direction for this area. These decisions are incorporated by reference, including the following decisions.

The Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area (ISRMA) Plan is an implementation plan of the approved 1993 Redding Resource Management Plan (RMP). On page 46 of the RMP it

states: “develop an integrated resources activity plan for the Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area which: . . . identifies potential site(s) for a regional firing range . . . “ The BLM Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area (ISRMA) Plan was approved in January 1998. The showcase features and marketing elements of the Sacramento River Greenway will be a regional firing range and a long, looping, predominantly non-motorized trail system circling both sides of Keswick reservoir and the Sacramento River, and linking up to the existing Sacramento River Trail below Keswick Dam. This RMP implementation plan identifies a site off of Walker Mine Road northeast of Keswick Dam on the Sacramento River, now known as the Walker Mine site, for disposal to Shasta County for a range. The County would then look at the development of a regional 60-acre-to-160-acre firing range. The Interlakes Plan stated that management proposals on this property would be developed and evaluated by Shasta County under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

On page 3, number 9 of the Record of Decision for the ISRMA Plan states “Enhance opportunities for a semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation experience by providing loop trail systems, parking areas and primitive facilities for hikers, mountain bike riders and equestrians. For safety purposes, close and rehabilitate roads and trails leading to managed shooting locations within the regional firing range. Provide signing that will inform the public that a regional firing range is nearby. Prohibit camping and target shooting within this sub-unit.”

Also on page 3, number 13 shown on the map on page 12 states “This 60 to 160 acres of BLM property has been identified for acquisition by Shasta count for consideration of a regional firing range. Once the acquisition is complete, management proposals on this property will be developed and evaluated by Shasta County under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).”

Page 20 of the ISRMA Record of Decision describes target shooting and development of a regional firing range east of Keswick Reservoir. The area is outside of the designated city limits for both the City of Redding and the City of Shasta Lake. It states several reasons that a public range is needed. One reason is that a public range is needed to satisfy the Hunter Safety course required by the California Department of Fish and Game in order to obtain a hunting license. Another reason is that popular target shooting areas have been systematically closed due to urban encroachment (e.g. Benton Ranch), recreational development (e.g. Shasta OHV Staging Area), or safety reasons (e.g. BLM lands within the Horsetown/Clear Creek Nature Preserve along Clear Creek Road).

With the extension of the Sacramento River Trail towards Shasta Dam, several informal shooting areas will be lost. Two flats adjacent to the railroad grade will be closed to shooting as will the popular locations adjacent to Iron Mountain Road. Without an alternative site to send target shooters into, this use will likely be displaced to other undesirable locations. When the OHV Staging Area was developed, a very popular shooting site was displaced. Many of these target shooters have found shooting along the railroad bed, Iron Mountain Road, private land along Clear Creek Road, and BLM land near Swasey Drive a convenient alternative. By developing a regional firing range above Walker Mine Road, target shooting use at these alternative locations will greatly decline. Many of these areas may be appropriate to close to target shooting once a regional site is developed. Although the regional firing range will likely disrupt the peaceful setting of eastern Keswick Reservoir and portions of the railroad bed above Keswick Boat Ramp,

noise from target shooting use in these areas is a common occurrence. The site considered for development is currently used by several hundred target shooters each year, formalizing this use into a managed range will improve safety and ensure noise abatement.

G. Issues

During formulation of the Redding RMP, or the ISRMA Plan no opposition was expressed by the public at large or by Shasta County government regarding disposal of federal land managed by BLM for consideration of a regional firing range. The County of Shasta had been the intended party for the land transfer.

The issues analyzed in this document are related to the RMP amendment which will identify public land for disposal by direct sale to the Gun Club.

Environmental issues concerning cultural resources, threatened and endangered species, minerals, appraised value, hazardous materials, and existing uses will be discussed.

Those issues associated specifically with a firing range, such as noise, traffic, as well as public safety of a regional firing range will be addressed to the extent possible with the information that is known. These specific issues will be addressed further by the County's CEQA analysis during the permitting process since more information will be available and provided to the County in a development plan.

The issues above include issues brought forward by the public during a comment period for a previous Notice of Realty Action for the sale of the subject public land for a regional firing range.

Chapter 2 The Proposed Amendment and Alternatives

A. Proposed Action

The proposed action analyzed in this environmental assessment is:

Amendment of the 1993 Redding Resource Management Plan (RMP) to:

- reallocate the identified public land, described below, from "acquisition/retention" to "available for disposal".
- identify by map and legal description approximately 260 acres of public land that would be made available for disposal to the Redding Gun Club in two phases for possible development of a regional firing range.
- specify the Redding Gun Club, a non-profit organization, as the proponent in place of a "requesting agency" (not stated, but assumed to be, the County of Shasta) identified on page 46 of the RMP and in the ISRMA Plan, page 3, item 13.

B. The No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the RMP would not be amended to identify public land for disposal as described above. The RMP decision for the lands would continue to be implemented with the parcel remaining in federal ownership and continuing to be managed as part of the Sacramento Greenway as designated in the Interlakes Special Recreation Management Plan, except for the development of the firing range.

C. Alternate Sites for the Firing Range Dismissed from Further Consideration

Nearby residents have stated that the Walker Mine is not an appropriate place for a firing range. Other areas have been investigated in several public planning efforts over the last 19 years. The Walker Mine has been selected as the most suitable compromise site for the requested shooting range by the County. The 1993 Redding Resource Management Plan stated that a potential site for a regional firing range should be found in the area northwest of Redding. The 1998, ISRMA implementation plan specifically identified this site for consideration as a regional firing range. Therefore, alternative locations will not be considered further.

Chapter 3 Affected Environment

A. Physical Setting

The subject property is located northwest of Redding. The rural neighborhood of the subject property is within the BLM's Interlakes Special Recreation Management Area and bounded to the north by the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. A stretch of the Sacramento River between the Shasta Dam and the Keswick Dam runs north to south through the area and to the west of the subject parcel. Shasta Dam, which lies about 10 miles north of Redding and about 4 miles north of the subject parcel, is the cornerstone of the Department of the Interior's Central Valley Project. It is the main tourist attraction to the recreation-enriched area with nearly 2.5 million visitor days per year.

Shasta County Zoning Map has the property zoned "U" Unclassified. The subject parcel is accessed by way of Walker Mine Road, a County road, which runs through the parcel. It is in a remote area with approximately 4 year around residences within a mile from the subject parcel. The subject parcel is within ½ mile from the Sacramento River on the west and a range of mountains on the east. The next closest year around residences would be more than a mile from the subject parcel and over the mountain range into the Sacramento Valley. The vegetation is mostly dense manzanita, scattered oaks and grey pines. There are no trees with commercial forest lumber value. The terrain ranges from a fairly flat meadow area in the center of the parcel to moderately rolling hills nearby and higher mountains to the east and west.

B. Recreation

The area is currently being used for wildland recreation activities, e.g., horseback riding, hiking, hunting, off highway vehicle use, etc.

There has been interest in a non-motorized trail on the east side of the Sacramento River which would connect to the Sacramento Rail Trail on the westside of the Sacramento River. Both trails (west and east of the Sacramento River) would be connected to the existing Sacramento River trail that the City of Redding maintains downstream of Keswick Dam. Sentence deleted.

C. Cultural Resources

The proposed sale area is within the “Old Diggins” Mining District. The extinct community of Hart, active from 1890 into the early 1990s, is associated with the district. Remnants of the town are found within the proposed sale area along with six other sites that were associated with early settlement of the area. These sites are discussed at length in a report on file with BLM by Dr. Eric Ritter. None of the sites are considered to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A cultural survey for lands in Phase 2 will be analyzed in a separate EA at a later time.

D. Threatened and Endangered Species

Biological surveys were done on the public lands in this exchange with no T&E species being found. A survey for lands in Phase 2 will be analyzed in a separate EA at a later time.

E. Hazardous Materials

A Hazardous Materials Survey has been completed for a portion of the public land which will be disposed of in Phase 1. No hazardous materials were discovered. The public land in Phase 2 would be surveyed at a future date. A report for lands in Phase 2 will be completed and included in a separate EA at a later time.

F. Minerals

A mineral report was completed for the project with no mineral value being found, therefore the mineral estate will be included in the direct sale of Phase 1. A mineral report for lands in Phase 2 will be completed in a separate environmental assessment at a later time.

G. Appraised value

The value of the parcel was determined by fair-market-value appraisal completed by a qualified appraiser. These appraisals are updated periodically. The appraisal determined the highest and best use of the parcel is “remote rural residential site.” Comparable sales of like property indicated a value of \$700 per acre or \$69,615 for the parcel. The appraisal was completed in accordance with the *Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices* and has been reviewed by the BLM California Chief State Appraiser.

H. Target Shooting

There is an existing informal target shooting area within the Walker Mine area public lands that has been used by the public year around for over 25 years. There has been some noise and traffic with this historical activity. Interviews with local people show that up to 5 vehicles may be using the site at any given time. It is one of the informal shooting areas on public land in the Redding area that has not been closed due to encroaching residential development.

I. Noise

Walker Mine is a rural site two miles north of Redding, the major northern California city. Ambient noise in the area comes from air traffic and highway traffic two to three miles distant. It is a generally quiet area influenced by use of the area by recreational vehicles, target shooters and seasonal hunting. Casual target shooting is the source of the sharpest and loudest sounds. Because the site is buffered on the east by a ridge from rural residential housing shooting noise would not carry far. On the west, is the motorized area of the ISRMA, with many trails used by four wheel drive vehicles, motorcycles, and other forms of all terrain vehicles.

J. Traffic

The subject public land is reached from Walker Mine Road, west of Lake Blvd. Walker Mine Road is a paved county road to within a couple of miles from the subject parcel. The unpaved road runs through the parcel and north toward Shasta Dam. The existing road is used by casual target shooters range and other recreationists. With development of the firing range, motorized access will be prevented north of the paved road. Traffic on Walker Mine Road is expected to increase once the firing range is completed. Planned events and meets will draw additional traffic to the range. The ISRMA Plan is to develop parking areas adjacent to Walker Mine Road and install vehicle barriers to deter garbage dumping. Current plans are to gate the existing route through the property at the north end of the county road. Dumping household garbage and other wastes on public lands in the area is a chronic problem.

K. Public Safety

Existing uncontrolled shooting in the area is a public safety issue addressed in the ISRMA plan.

The ISRMA Plan, states: “For safety purposes, close and rehabilitate roads and trails leading to managed shooting locations within the regional firing range. Provide signing that will inform the public that a regional firing range is nearby. Prohibit camping and target shooting within this sub-unit (Sacramento River Greenway).”

L. Existing Use Authorizations

The current Master Title Plat for the area shows one issued right-of-way for a power line and access road (S 3668). The power line has been removed and the right-of-way will be relinquished by the Bureau of Reclamation and Western Area Power Administration.

The Redding Gun Club is aware of the right-of-way reservation (CA 45206) to the BLM for administrative access over the existing roads on the sale parcel.

The Shasta County Road System map dated 1994 shows Walker Mine Road extending through the subject parcel. While no authorization has been issued for it, the road would qualify for adjudication under RS 2477.

There are no mining claims or grazing leases on the subject property.

Chapter 4 Environmental Consequences of the Action and Alternatives

A. Critical Elements

The following table summarizes potential impacts to various elements of the human environment, listed in BLM Manual H-1790-1, Appendix 5, as amended.

Environmental Element	Proposed Action		No Action Alternative	
	Affected	No Affect	Affected	No Affect
Air Quality		X		X
ACECs		X		X
Cultural Resources ¹		X		X
Native American Concerns ²		X		X
Farmlands		X		X
Floodplains		X		X
T&E Animal species		X		X
T&E Plant species ³		X		X
Wastes (hazardous/solid)		X		X
Water Quality		X		X
Wetlands/Riparian Zones		X		X
Wild and Scenic Rivers		X		X
Wilderness		X		X
Invasive, Nonnative Species		X		X
Environmental Justice		X		X

¹ See write-up below.

² Local Native American groups were contacted with no responses received.

³ No special status species were found.

B. Environmental Effects of the Proposed Amendment

This section analyzes the environmental effects of disposal of the 260 acre parcel for purposes of developing and operating a regional shooting range. This analysis is tiered to the ISRMA Final Plan and EIS, pages 4-43 through 4-47. The BLM is not considering a detailed project plan for the regional facility, and the following analysis of this EA is based on BLM's estimate of the approximate location and characteristics of a regional shooting range. Further, it is noted that proposed must be approved by Shasta County and will undergo more detailed environmental analysis in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) procedures at such time that detailed project plans are submitted to the County.

1. Recreation

The ISRMA Plan indicates that both a loop trail and an organized shooting area could co-exist. Preliminary routes for the eastside trail in this area show the trail farther to the west along a small ridge and closer to Keswick Reservoir. The proposed firing range would face east.

Potential conflicts with use of this site existing and proposed recreation uses were addressed in the ISMRA Plan. Analysis of use of this site as a firing range concluded that hiking trail users would not be significantly affected by the range. No other impacts to other recreation uses were identified associated with the amendment and sale.

2. Cultural Resources

Based upon the archaeological inventory and study no sites on the sale parcel were deemed eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore no significant impacts to cultural resources will occur. Potential loss of the cultural resource could be partially ameliorated through public interpretation of several of the site features. The buyer would be made aware of these sites.

3. Threatened and Endangered Species

Because no threatened and endangered species were found on the subject parcel there would be no effect from implementation of the amendment.

4. Hazardous Materials

A field survey and records search of the property revealed no hazardous materials on the subject parcel. Amending the RMP to enable disposal of the property for development of a firing range would create conditions for accumulation of lead and other potentially hazardous wastes. As part of the permitting process for the Redding Gun Club, the range facilities would be required to conform to modern safety standards to contain and control wastes.

5. Minerals

The mineral report for the proposed sale found no mineral values on the site. The amendment and sale would not affect mineral values.

6. Appraised Value

An initial appraisal completed under standard BLM methodology determined the value of the 260-acre Walker Mine parcel to be \$500 per acre. After plans were made to split the property into two parts for a 2-phase sale, a reappraisal determined the value of the 100 acre parcel to be \$700 per acre.

7. Target Shooting

There is an existing informal shooting range in the area of the proposed site for the proposed regional firing range that would no longer be available to the public. The proposed firing range would give the public a formal range to use in the place of the informal range.

8. Noise

Preliminary noise tests were conducted in April 1991 at Walker Mine and several alternate sites. Sound measurements confirmed that noise levels at defined distances from firing sites would be unlikely to exceed standard permit levels away from the site.

Noise environments for both traffic and shooting are analyzed in the ISRMA Plan on pages 3-28 to 3-30, and 4-23 to 4-24. Preliminary noise tests were conducted in April 1991 at the potential regional firing site located north of the Keswick Boat Ramp. The six key areas evaluated were stations located 2 miles

9. Traffic

The regional firing range would draw shooters from the casual shooting sites and participants in large-scale shooting events, increasing traffic from Lake Boulevard onto Walker Mine Road. One county planner has expressed concern about the ability of large motor homes to safely negotiate two or more short-radius curves in the existing roadway. The amount of traffic would be greater during times when the range would have a special event. The remainder of the year would probably be slightly higher than what is currently occurring with the informal range.

10. Public Safety

Public safety would improve with the controlled environment of the proposed regional range instead of the existing informal shooting range. The ISRMA incorporates measures for public safety for the adjacent public lands around the proposed range.

11. Existing Use Authorizations

The current Master Title Plat for the area shows one issued right-of-way for a power line and access road (S 3668). The power line has been removed and the right-of-way will be relinquished by the Bureau of Reclamation and Western Area Power Administration. The Redding Gun Club is aware of the right-of-way reservation (CA 45206) to the BLM for administrative access over the existing roads on the sale parcel, no impacts are anticipated.

The Shasta County Road System map dated 1994 shows Walker Mine Road extending into the subject parcel. While no authorization has been issued for it, the road would qualify for adjudication under RS 2477.

There are no mining claims or grazing leases on the subject property.

C. Environmental Effects of the No-Action Alternative

1. Recreation

Under this alternative the RMP would not be amended and the public lands would remain part of the retention/acquisition area of the RMP. The parcel would remain in federal ownership and would be managed as part of the Sacramento Greenway as designated in the Interlakes Special Recreation Management Plan. Current recreational uses would likely continue with a possible non-motorized trail being built in the vicinity of the subject parcel sometime in the future.

Under the No Action Alternative, the Redding Gun Club would not purchase the parcel and would still have a need for a regional firing range site. With the closing of some of the historical informal shooting areas due to the encroaching residential development, people wanting to shoot will be looking for other sites. Public safety is an important concern in this alternative.

2. Cultural Resources

Under the No Action Alternative, the public land would remain in federal ownership and therefore managed according to the BLM laws and regulations.

3. Threatened and Endangered Species

Under the No Action Alternative, the public land would remain in federal ownership and therefore managed according to the BLM laws and regulations.

4. Hazardous Materials

No hazardous materials were found during a field survey. Trash dumping is a chronic problem in the area and actions such as placing a gate at the end of the Walker Mine county road are planned to deter dumping.

5. Minerals

Under the No Action Alternative, the public land would remain in federal ownership and managed according to the BLM laws and regulations.

6. Appraised Value

Under the No Action Alternative, the public land would remain in federal ownership. The appraised value of the property would not be a management issue.

7. Target Shooting

If the proposed firing range were not developed, other informal shooting sites would continue to be used. Public safety hazards from allowing many informal shooting sites could be greater rather than having a planned, controlled firing range available.

8. Noise

Under the No Action Alternative, shooting at the existing informal shooting range would continue. Shooting noise from existing use is intermittent and would be less than that experienced from a formal firing range because fewer shooters would use the site.

9. Traffic

Under the No Action Alternative, the informal shooting range would remain for the indefinite future. The existing amount of vehicle travel in the area is expected to increase incrementally with the growing population of Shasta County. Current actions to place a gate across the existing route that extends north from the end of the county road will eliminate public vehicle travel.

10. Public Safety

Without the implementation of the ISRMA-planned range, more informal shooting areas would continue to be used. It is assumed that a developed firing range would provide a higher level of public safety than allowing use of the existing scattered shooting sites.

11. Existing Authorized Uses

One existing right-of-way for a power line and access road (S 3668) has the power line removed. The right-of-way will be relinquished by the Bureau of Reclamation and Western Area Power Administration.

The Shasta County Road System map dated 1994 shows Walker Mine Road extending through the subject parcel. Implementation of the no action alternative would have no effect on the status of Walker Road.

D. Indirect Effects of the Proposed Amendment and Alternatives

Many scattered traditionally-used shooting areas are being encroached upon by rural development resulting in the closure of the sites. The regional firing range, if permitted, would give the public a safe place to shoot. BLM would close the casual shooting sites, concentrating more recreational shooting onto the regional range, consistent with the RMP and ISRMA decisions.

Plans for the ISRMA are to provide semi-primitive non-motorized use. The existing route crossing the Walker Mine area is not a designated route. This amendment would retain administrative vehicle access across the firing range management needs north of the range. Development of the firing range may necessitate relocation of the existing route. Deleted sentence.

The ISRMA plan describes a possible hiking and biking trail to be constructed between the firing range and the Sacramento River. The firing range should not interfere with the trail development. No comments were received during the ISRMA planning process that expressed an inability for the range and the trail to coexist.

E. Monitoring

This action will be monitored by (deleted BLM) Shasta County to ensure that the requirements for development of the property are fulfilled.

BLM will collaborate with the Gun Club to ensure an acceptable administrative route of travel will be provided through or around the property should the county abandon the road. The route will provide administrative access to public lands north of the firing range after the range is developed and the existing public road is blocked.

F. Management Plan Implementation

The plan amendment will be implemented upon the final decision by the authorized officers.

G. Cumulative Effects

With the development of the regional firing range, there would be an increase in noise, traffic, and other things associated with a regional firing range. The increase during most of the year would not be much more than what is currently occurring with the informal shooting range. When special events are happening at the regional firing range there would be more traffic and more noise concentrated in the 2-3 day event that may occur once or twice a year. The firing range would be built to required standards for a facility such as this. There would be an increase in public safety due to the controlled environment of the facility. There is already existing noise and traffic from recreational vehicle use across the Sacramento River in the motorized portion of the ISRMA. In the future, there is a plan to build a non-motorized trail along the Sacramento River to the west of the shooting range. No comments were received during the ISRMA planning process that were opposed to the co-location of the shooting range and trail. The ISRMA addresses public safety in the area of the proposed range on adjacent public land. A rock quarry is being proposed in the residential area east of the shooting range and over the ridge. Most of the residences in the area of the proposed range are over this ridge. This quarry would also increase noise and traffic in the area. Up to 260 acres of public land would be taken out of federal ownership and become private land within the ISRMA. Over the past 10 years since the approval of the RMP approximately 9000 acres of public land have been acquired in the ISRMA. Lands will continue to be acquired as they become available.

H. Plan Evaluation/Adaptive Management

These actions will be evaluated through monitoring the progress of the county planning process achieved by the Gun Club. Future decisions and actions such as disposal of Phase 2 will be based upon conditions that exist at the time. Plans will be based upon completion of the Phase 1 sale and lessons learned during the first sale and subsequent range development.

Chapter 5 Public Involvement

A. Persons and Agencies Consulted

Prepared by:	Ilene Emry	BLM Realty Specialist
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	Joe Molter	BLM Botanist /Rangeland Management Specialist
	Eric Ritter, PhD	BLM Archaeologist
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	Bill Kuntz	BLM Recreation Planner
	Pat Hagan	BLM Law Enforcement Ranger

Persons and Agencies consulted:

John Stokes	Shasta County Planning Department
Al Kathey	Shasta County Department of Public Works
Patrick Jones	Redding Gun Club (primary contact)
John Dunlap	Redding Gun Club (engineering consultant)
Right-of-Way holders and other interested parties	

REVIEWED BY:

Environmental Coordinator

Date